

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5573
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations Children's Fund has initiated any new scheme to conduct a study on Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Anganwadi workers can work effectively to bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate(MMR);
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Anganwadi workers have requested the Government to allow them to work as full time workers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): UNICEF uses data on the estimates of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) obtained from the results of the Sample Registration System (SRS) published by the office of Registrar General of India (RGI) in October 2006.

UNICEF is working with various State Governments to help them streamline their existing maternal and perinatal death audit protocols and practices. It is currently supporting the implementation of maternal and perinatal death inquiry in five States, namely Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal since 2004-2005, by the development and implementation of Maternal and Perinatal (Child Death within 7 days of birth) Death Inquiry and Response (MAPEDIR). It is a tool for retrospective verbal autopsy of maternal and perinatal deaths, which will strengthen community participation and provide an evidence based method for providing feedback to enable communities, local governments and NGOs etc. to take definitive action against the factors contributing to these deaths. This tool, which is basically a structured verbal autopsy questionnaire, has been provided to the respective states by UNICEF.

(c) to (f): The Anganwadi Centre has been identified as the hub of service provision for the Integrated Child Development Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Rural Health Mission along with the Reproductive and Child Health Programme – Phase II of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It serves as a platform for inter-sectoral convergence between the two programmes and an interface with the community. The objectives of reducing maternal mortality and infant and child mortality are sought to be achieved through provision of a package of services namely, supplementary nutrition, immunization, referral services, health check ups, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education at the Anganwadi center. The health related services, that is, immunization, health check ups including those for pregnant women, immunization and referral services are delivered by a team of functionaries comprising of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Accredited Social Health Activist(ASHA) and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) in conjunction with each other and with involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), at the monthly Village Health and Nutrition Day organized at the Anganwadi Centre. Some of the key interventions are ante-natal and postnatal checkups, promoting institutional delivery, counseling on danger signs of pregnancy and nutrition, providing information on referral transport, availability of funds under JSY etc.

The Government of India has been receiving from time to time, memoranda from various Associations/Federations. The major demands listed in these are:

Accord status of Grade "C" & "D" employees of the Government with the consequential benefits.

Payment of salary at par with Government employees.

Linkage of remuneration with Consumer Price Index.

A lump sum ex-gratia benefit on retirement of Rs.1,00,000 to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Rs.50,000 to Anganwadi Helpers(AWHs)

Extension of social security benefits like Provident Fund, pension etc. to all Anganwadi Wokers/Anganwadi Helpers.

Enhancement of honorarium to Rs.3,000 for AWWs and Rs.2,000 for AWHs.